



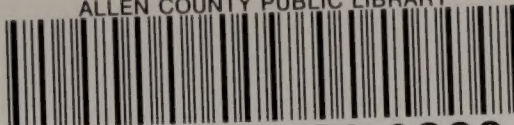


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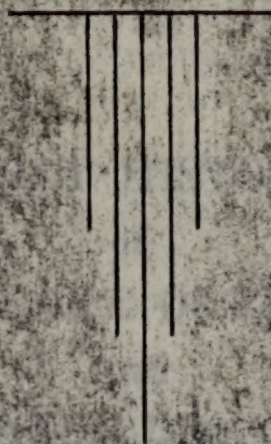






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# INTRODUCTION AND NOTES IN PART ONE

by

JESSE R. OVERTURF

## PART I.

It is a pleasure for me, for the sake of bringing our family history up-to-date, to use recent data sent to me by my eight living brothers and sisters as Part I of this history. Some sent personal comments, which have been included.

The purpose of Part I **FAMILY HISTORY** of our own families, at present, November 1941, is to the attention of all members of the family, so that we might feel a little better acquainted after so many years of separation; and particularly for the benefit of the families. May I call to the attention of our immediate family that when they read Part II, they will find that portion beginning with "John Puller Fuller" as the identifying part for our immediate family. **JOHN LAKE OVERTURF** and **ALZINA M. (SHELDON) OVERTURF**

Part II deals with the three branches of Overturf, as you will note. Due credit is given in Part II for its preparation. It should be mentioned, however, that Father, John and George made a very large contribution to Part II, because they did their research and writing between 1898 and 1900, when most of our grand-parents were yet alive, which made it possible for them to verify the information obtained from various sources through the grandparents.

I send to you all, along with this brief revision of our family history

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

JESS

Palo Alto, California--December 1941

The material of Part I was collected, organized and ordered printed by Jesse R. Overturf, Palo Alto, California, December, 1941.

A copy of this history has been sent to the genealogy division of the Library of Congress, Boston City Library, Los Angeles City Library, and the State Library, Sacramento.

Rec'd Feb 28-1979

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ALZINA M. (SHELDON) OVERTURE  
and  
JOHN LAKE OVERTURE  
of  
FAMILY HISTORY  
PART I

2033184

The material of Part I was collected, organized and ordered printed by  
Jesse H. Overture, Palo Alto, California, December, 1941.



## INTRODUCTION AND NOTES IN PART ONE

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The purpose of Part I is to bring details of our own families, at present, November 1941, to the attention of all members of the family, so that we might feel a little better acquainted after so many years of separation; and particularly for the benefit of our children and their families. May I call to the attention of our immediate families, that when they read Part II, they will find that portion beginning with (Simon Fuller Fuller) as the identifying part for our immediate family tree; it continues to (Minerva Overturf).

Part II deals with the three branches of Overturfs, as you will note. Due credit is given in Part II for its preparation. It should be mentioned, however, that Father, John and George made a very large contribution to Part II, because they did their research and writing between 1899 and 1910 when three of our grand-parents were yet alive, which made it possible for them to verify the information obtained from various sources through the grandparents.

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Picture taken in 1898. Father, 48; Mother, 45. Father died January 5, 1911 and Mother August 19, 1928. Their remains lie in the country cemetery east of the old home.

A tribute to John Lake Overturf and Alzina M. (Sheldon) Overturf  
by their son

John Horton Overturf, November 15, 1940

All reports that have come to me are that, as children and young people, they were both very friendly and agreeable. Hospitality and generosity flowed strong in the characters of both. The great migration from the Eastern states and from European countries that flowed for several years past their door in the 80's was part of the greatest folk movement the world has ever witnessed. We remember the campfires in the old barnyard, the shifting of stock in our none too roomy barns to accommodate tired horses, the making of beds on the floor when inclement weather drove women and children to the house. We remember also that oft repeated saying, "We haven't very good accommodations but to such as they are you are welcome." We remember mother refusing money for meals and father refusing pay for hay and grain.

These emigrants were as "ships that pass in the night and speak to each other in passing—only a word and a look, then darkness again and a silence." Yet if they could be assembled I doubt not they would be as numerous as those who came at the death of Doreas of old bringing the garments she had made for them.

They cast out no devils nor yet did any "wonderful works" but freely gave food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, and rest to the weary. We all know the parable about that. They always said "We were travelers once and people were good to us."

In August 1910, five months before his death, father said to me in a conversation east of their little house near Bird City, Kansas: "I am at peace with my fellow man and I am at peace with my God."

Mother visited her children annually during her later life and read "The Deep Woods People," and similar books, to her smaller grandchildren. Her enjoyment of life to the last was of the fullest and sanest sort.

They both had the sterling virtue of remembering and cherishing old friends. We older children remember that they were often called from their rest at night to aid the sick. Well do I remember that for one whole month father was gone every night to stay with Mr. Hitzeman when his leg was so terribly shattered. And also I remember when I told Mr. Hitzeman of father's passing to his reward the tears streamed down his cheeks and he was unable to speak.

Thus briefly have I related a few of the good deeds of our parents hoping to bear some idea of their characters to their descendents even to many generations. It is but a dim and inadequate outline of their lives and work as they and their day retreat into the gathering shadows of the past. I only hope that we, their children, may be blessed by our children as affectionately, when we pass into the shadows, as we now pay tribute to our parents.









The picture above is of the family home  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Elk Creek, Nebraska on the original 160 acres mentioned in Father's family history. It was built in 1893. The first home on this 160 acres was built in 1879, and was later converted into a granary.

The days when this home was occupied were grand and good days. For a period of 4 or 5 years, from about 1893 to 1898 the family circle was the largest. During these years Father and Mother and nine children usually sat down to a well-loaded table in the spacious dining room; and holiday time was a great joy. In addition to the family regularly at home during these particular days, the older ones would return with their children, and the grandparents would come, making a total often times of 25 to 30. Those were the days when the children were served at the last sitting instead of the first. It seemed a long time to wait for the third sitting, but what we received finally, was worth the waiting.

The following brief statements of family histories referred to in the introduction, were prepared by my living brothers and sisters, and concern their immediate families. I have used the first names in chronological order.

JESSE R. OVERTURE.

#### I. Etta

Charles Smith, Jr., and Etta M. Smith were married in the Methodist parsonage at Elk Creek, Nebraska, March 20, 1890.

Elmer Sheldon Smith was born August 19, 1891.

Fern Smith was born May 20, 1899.

We moved to Nora, Nebraska in March, 1902. Elmer passed away August 8, 1914.

Fern was married September 23, 1919 to Oscar Swanson. Wilda Arline Swanson was born May 12, 1923.







### Personal Message

I am thankful for my wonderful parents, and for the good home I had while growing up.

ETTA M. SMITH,  
Nora, Nebraska,  
November 9, 1940.

### II. Ida

Ida Dell Overturf, born in Knox County, Illinois, April 23, 1871, and Louis Richmond Tibbets, born Nemaha County, Nebraska, September 13, 1866. Married September 13, 1888 at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Our children:

Mabel Tibbets, born March 28, 1889, in Nemaha County, Nebraska.

Maude Tibbets, born Sept. 1, 1890, in Nemaha County, Nebraska.

Ralph Albert Tibbets, born Sept. 1, 1893, in Elk Creek, Nebraska.

Blanche Ione Tibbets, born Oct. 31, 1894 in Elk Creek, Nebraska.

Mildred Tibbets, born Feb. 23, 1899, in Elk Creek, Nebraska.

Vera Tibbets, born March 7, 1906, in Elk Creek, Nebraska.

### MARRIAGES

Mabel Tibbets to John D. Bell, October 14, 1906. Their children, Howard, born February 7, 1908, and Jack Weldon, born November 25, 1919.

Maude Tibbets to Harry Fasick, July 15, 1911. Their children, Betty Bell, born February 4, 1913.

Ralph Tibbets to Marie Pinell, September 20, 1912 (later divorced). Their children, Betty Jane, born in Omaha, Nebraska, 1915.

Ralph Tibbets to Sara Hulsey, November, 1937. Their children, Roslyn, born February 22, 1939.

Blanch Ione Tibbets, married to Walter J. Judge, November 1, 1927, in Denver, Colorado. Their children, Mary Ann, born September 25, 1928, Dorothy Jane, born December 4, 1930.

Mildred Tibbets to Lou R. Graf, October 28, 1921 at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Their children, one infant son, deceased.

Vera Tibbets to Harold Steadmay, married November 14, 1928 at Greeley, Colorado, later divorced. No children.

Vera Tibbets now married to M. G. Markle, Culver City, California, no children.

### Personal Message

Father was so kind and gentle while we worked side by side at chores and in the field, always making our tasks easier with encouraging words, cheerfulness and now and then a song. He loved music. I still can hear that wonderful voice and what an inspiration.

Mother was the most wonderful woman in her own personal way, I ever knew. Her capacity for thinking of and doing for others and still care for all her own responsibilities could have but one source, a spiritual source. I loved to hear her sing the old hymns as she worked.

I am thankful to have had such a wonderful environment in childhood, it is of greater value to me each succeeding year. Also each member of the family have contributed dear memories to me.

IDA TIBBETS,  
Greeley, Colorado,  
November, 1940.









### III. Will

Will died May 22, 1936 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he is buried.

#### A TRIBUTE TO WILL

by  
ETTA

I regret Will is no longer with us, but I am thankful for the many pleasant memories I have of him. As we journeyed from Illinois to Nebraska I well remember him standing for hours at the dash board of the wagon snapping his thumb and finger and saying "Pa! Pa! when will we be to Braska's house?" Those were small beginnings of the boundless energy he possessed.

He, being the oldest boy, I know many burdens fell on his young shoulders. Never once do I remember him complaining. He was a good and efficient worker. Always did his share. I remember him as a kind and true brother.

(The following statement was sent to me by Roy E. Overturf, Will's oldest son from Fort Morgan, Colorado, his home, November 26, 1940.—Jesse R. Overturf.)

Roy Ellis Overturf, born August 31, 1898, Elk Creek, Nebraska. (Married October 14, 1928.)

Edna Mae Southard, born November 25, 1903, Plano, Iowa.

Our children, all living:

Ellis Eugene Overturf, born November 18, 1931, Ft. Morgan, Colorado.

John Robert Overturf, born December 24, 1932, Fort Morgan, Colorado.

Joseph Leroy Overturf, born January 7, 1937, Ft. Morgan, Colorado.







My parents, William Fuller Overturf, born February 19, 1874, Knox County, Illinois, and Edna Lucy (Gibbs) Overturf, born September 10, 1879, were married January 7, 1897.

William Wayne Overturf, born August 30, 1906—recently married, and is living at Nebraska City, Nebraska. Wayne has nearly lost his eyesight, so bad that he gets a blind pension, otherwise, he is in good health and weighs about 190. About the only way I hear of or about him is through mother. She is secretary in the athletic department office in the capital building at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Hardly know what to tell you about myself, guess you pretty well know my history since the war, finished high school and college, and have worked at nearly everything since then, but have never been able to quite adjust myself since coming back from France, I feel sometimes that I haven't made much of a success of things. I have been checker for the Piggly Wiggly Colo Co., drug store experience, kept books for a hardware company for about four years and am now working in a grocery store, also been in the grocery business and sold out, so you can just say "Jack of all trades." Would really like to go back on the home place at Holdredge, Nebr., but I'm short on the "cart wheels" so guess I'll have to sit tight for a while.

Our two older boys are in the 3rd grade and doing fine, so if I can just hold up my end of things, guess I should be thankful.

**Note:** Will remarried, and at the time of his death in May, 1936, he left his wife Marian (who died in 1940) and a little girl, Hollis, age 4½.

#### IV. John

### JOHN HORTON OVERTURF and IDA (POLHEMUS) OVERTURF

#### Bernice Marie (Overturf) Mercer

Bernice was born August 17, 1905 at Bend, Oregon. She has six children:

Elizabeth Marie, born February 10, 1927.

John Thomas, born February 12, 1928.

Marion Channing, born November 12, 1929.

Phyllis Irene, born December 4, 1932.

Christine Elaine, born March 8, 1936.

Barbara Kay, born October 2, 1939.

Her husband, Channing Mercer.

Living on a farm of 180 acres one mile from Petersburg, Ohio. All healthy and a great joy and comfort to us.

By JOHN H. OVERTURF,  
New Waterford, Ohio,  
November 15, 1940.







V. Emma "Em"

Born Feb. 19, 1878.  
Died Sept. 3, 1901.  
She rests in the  
Country cemetery,  
east of the old home.



"None knew her but to love her  
None knew her but to praise."

IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND\*

On the prairies of Nebraska  
Stands a homestead on the hill.  
Where once there dwelt a maiden  
Who with love all hearts did fill.

We watched her grow from childhood  
Up to womanhood a queen  
Always speaking words of comfort  
Where ever she was seen.

But alas she has gone from us.  
God has taken her away  
To her just reward in heaven  
Where God's chosen people stay.

First there came the dread fever  
Which for weeks did not abate  
She was always bright and cheerful  
Never murmured at her fate.

In my dreams I often see her,  
As we sat in days of yore  
Talking of the past and present,  
And what the future held in store.

She left a father and a mother  
Each noble in their way.  
Three sisters and there were brothers  
By her influence she did sway.

On the wall hangs her picture  
In yon corner her vacant chair  
There's a void within the household  
For the pride she is not there.







But her memory is cherished.  
In each kind and loving heart.  
But within that saddened household  
Her sweet image will never depart.

In the country church yard yonder  
She is sleeping beneath the sod  
Sweet will be her long last slumber  
For her spirit is with God.

Sing the praises of noble woman  
Tell the deeds of great men  
But of all the grand and noble  
None were grander than our Em.

—Written in memory of  
a grand and noble friend.

JOHN O. ALDERMAN,  
Dorsey Montana,  
Sept. 3, 1902.

\*John Alderman was a friend of Emma's. He wrote this after his service in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

## VI. Charley

Bird City, Kansas  
October 25, 1940

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

With respect and love for our parents, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, uncles and aunts, children and grand-children, and a word of commendation for every one who takes part in promoting the family record, I, (Chas. E. Overturf) herewith add my bit.

Was born east of Elk Creek, Nebr., May 12, 1880. January 29, 1901 I married Edith Steininger and moved to Nuckolls county, Nebr., to farm. Lived there eight years where our first two children were born. Names of our four children and seven grand-children are as follows:

Harold Horton Overturf, born Dec. 2, 1902, enlisted in U. S. Navy in 1923. Is now a Chief Radioman, and at present is located in the Naval Radio Station at Loleta, Calif. On October 16, 1926 he married Sadie Leach, and they have two sons, Charles David Overturf, 11, born June 20, 1929, and James Richard Overturf, 7, born April 27, 1933.

Allen Edward Overturf, our second son, was born Sept. 16, 1905, and on March 31, 1930 married Gaynelle Thomas, and they had four children: Donald Leroy Overturf 9, born January 6th, 1931; Dolores Jean Overturf 7, born June 21, 1933; Bruce Roland Overturf 3, born May 1, 1937. These are at home with them now in Bird City, Kansas, and little Sylvia at home in heaven. She was born April 5, 1935, and departed this life March 17, 1938, at the age of 2 years, eleven months, and nineteen days.

Elbert Erwin Overturf, our third son was born on the home farm at Bird City, Kansas Feb. 2, 1910, and on January 17, 1937, married Helen Waters, and they have since lived on our home farm at Bird City, Kansas. They have one daughter, Beth Ellen, born August 12, 1941.

Opal E. Overturf, our fourth child and only daughter was born on home farm at Bird City, Kansas, October 22, 1913, and on December 18, 1933, passed into the great beyond. We have reason to believe that she too is at home in heaven. She had a very clear experience of conversion.







I am glad to say here that I believe the Bible, and can testify to a definite conversion, and because I have been willing to confess every sin committed since my conversion, (to my shame), and according to God's commandments I stand ready to make every wrong right to the best of my ability—I have the witness of the Spirit—and best of all I have His unfailing Word! (1 John 1:9) "I am wrong, and you are wrong, and every body is wrong when we violate the teachings of the Scriptures." "They are not to shield us, but to show us the way."

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that we might escape hell and gain heaven. (John 3-16) (1 Tim. 1:15). If we are saved we are a great success. But if we are lost—alas what a failure! (Mark 8:36-38).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9).

No, we are not saved by our good works—but after we are saved through repentance, and a Godly sorrow for our sins, and faith in the atoning merits of the shed blood of Christ—then, after that, in one sense, we are kept saved by our good works. See a message to church members: (1 John 2:3-4) (Matt. 5:16) (Rom. 11:22) (Ezek. 33:12-13) (II Chron. 7:14).

Claiming to be a Christian will not save us, but if we are saved, we will claim to be a Christian. We could not be a United States soldier without enlisting and claiming to be a soldier.

Thank God, "He has set before us an open door, and no man can shut it." The door of heaven is open to all, and "by His grace" I expect to "go in thereat," when all unfinished business here is finished.

Trusting that we may all meet there, "and ever be with the Lord"—

I am humbly and sincerely yours,  
C. E. OVERTURE.

VII. Jim

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Soil Conservation Service

Long Creek, Oregon  
October 27, 1940

Dear Jess:

Your circular letter came last month. It was a relief, in a way, for if it had been a personal letter I would have been more chagrined, for not having written you. I really don't know why I don't write more for I am always so grateful for a letter from any of you. I have even lost John's address. Will you give it to me.

In regard to the family history: I wrote Ruth for the dates of deaths of Mary and Peggy, and she, like myself had purposely tried to forget the dates that broke our hearts. She has the record in her Bible but that is packed with our things in Hood River. The approximation is:

H. J. Junior (June) born July 31, 1911. Married Josephine Wiseman at the University of Oregon at the beginning of their Junior years there. They finished together and both got their Masters Degrees there, he in Psychology and she in Fine Arts. They have each done about a year's work at Stanford on their Doctor's Degrees. At present he is Chief Psychologist and director of work at the Preston School of Industry at Ione, California.

Mary Ramsey was born May 25, 1913 and died at the age of 8 months. Margaret Ried (Peggy) was born June 4, 1915 and died at the age of 8 years.

Not having seen the former work of John and George I do not know what you want in the way of a statement other than the above. If there is anything lacking you will still have time to write me and I will supply it if I can.

Ruth spent the summer up here. We had a tent in the woods near the camp and I piped water down so we had a good summer aside from the week she was sick and had to go to Pendleton to the hospital.

As ever,

JIM.





## VIII. & IX. Jesse and Tresse

Jesse Ray Overturf, born April 9, 1884 on the old farm 3½ miles east of Elk Creek, Nebraska. Married Ellen Marian Pierce, of Lincoln, Nebraska August 20, 1914.

I had a twin brother who lived one day. See photostat of births.

Ellen Pierce was born on a farm in Nance County, Nebraska, August 13, 1889. She went to Lincoln with her parents when a young child. She is a graduate of the Lincoln High School and attended Wesleyan University. She taught school five years before her marriage. I met her in Shuyler, Nebraska where we were teachers in the public schools. One daughter Janet May, born December 14, 1920. She married James Hal Cowan of Roswell, New Mexico August 20, 1940 (our wedding date) in Palo Alto, at the family residence, 2451 South Court. Janet finished her sophomore year at the University of Arizona, at Tucson. Hal finished his law degree at the University of Arizona in January, 1941. He was appointed to the F.B.I. in January, 1941 and has been assigned in Washington, D. C. ever since his appointment. Patricia Marian was born July 26, 1941 in Washington, D. C. We rate her the finest baby in Virginia, if not in the U. S. The family resides in Arlington, Virginia.

We came to California on July 15, 1922 and I spent the summer at U.S.C. and the following year at Stanford. In the fall of 1923 I went to Lodi, California as superintendent, and in 1925 to Sacramento as deputy superintendent for 12 years, back to Palo Alto as superintendent since July 1, 1936, and January 1, 1942 I return to Sacramento as superintendent. A teacher now for 32 years, and still enthusiastic about the job.

By JESSE R. OVERTURF,  
Palo Alto, California,  
November 9, 1941.

## X.—George

GEORGE EDWIN OVERTURF was born April 20, 1886 at Elk Creek, Nebraska. Grew up on the farm of his parents near Elk Creek and engaged in farming until he was 22. He then entered Cotner University at Lincoln, Nebraska for a year of study, later going to Hastings, Nebraska in 1908 where he attended the Hastings Business College. He took his first clerical position with the German National Bank of Hastings, Nebraska in April 1910. For six years beginning February 1, 1912 he was employed in the County Treasurer's Office becoming Deputy County Treasurer for one year. He resigned this office to become Office and Credit Manager for Wolbach and Brach, January 1, 1919 with which firm he remained ten years. For the next few years he was engaged in the retail coal business for himself, under the name of The City Fuel & Feed Company. In April 1937 he became Secretary of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, the position he now holds.

Throughout the years he has persistently manifested the Overturf characteristic of being willing to serve in public affairs in his community. Having been Secretary of the Red Cross for ten years, Secretary of the Museum Association for fifteen years, member of the School Board for six years, member of the City Council for two years. Has been a member of Lions Club for twenty years, also is a Past President. He served on the Presbyterian Church Board and as Treasurer of the Church as well as President of the Inter Church Reserve in the city.

George Edwin Overturf is a large man with dark curly hair, gray eyes, ruddy complexion and inclined to be heavy, frequently tipping the scales at three hundred pounds during his lifetime, a characteristic inherited from his Mother's side of the house. Of a genial disposition and easy acquaintance, he, like his Father before him, puts fair and honest dealing with his fellowmen first on the list of virtues and has earnestly sought to instill such teachings in his sons.

He was married to Nellie McDonald on June 25, 1910. To them were born three sons, Lee Lake Overturf, January 30, 1912; Donald Sheldon Overturf, July 10, 1916; and George Edwin Overturf, Jr., November 16, 1927.







NELLIE McDONALD OVERTURF was born on a farm near Springfield, Illinois on February 1, 1888. She is of Scotch-Irish descent and of small stature with brown eyes and hair. Prior to marriage was a teacher and office worker.

LEE LAKE OVERTURF was married to Charlotte Klein on December 16, 1933 and resides in Hastings, Nebraska and is a Commercial Artist. He is over 6 ft tall, weighs 200 pounds, has dark hair and eyes and considered by many to be very good looking. He seems to have inherited from the Lakes for whom he is named a marked aversion to hard physical exertion and a noticeable ability to arrange life along other lines. His wife, Charlotte, is one of those peculiarly blessed people into whose hands any task that falls becomes an accomplishment, be it music, clerical work, needlework or simple household tasks. She also possesses a very fine disposition. She is tall and has blue eyes and dark curly hair.

DONALD SHELDON OVERTURF was married to Josephine Hansen, June 20, 1937 and is a teacher of English and Debate in the High School at Norfolk, Nebraska. A daughter, Karen Jo, was born to them on December 5, 1939. Don inherited his slight build from his Mother, being 5 ft. 7 in. tall, weight 135 pounds, big brown eyes and light curly hair. Inclined toward athletics, consistently winning letters in both football and basket ball in high school and college.

His wife, commonly called Jo, is tall and fair, ambitious, energetic, and of Danish descent. She is a college graduate and taught school prior to her marriage.

GEORGE EDWIN OVERTURF, JR., resides with his parents in Hastings, Nebraska. He has hazel eyes and brown hair and although not grown gives promise of becoming a sizable man. In school he excels in handcrafts and art and woodwork.

## XI. Frank

### ELBERT FRANKLIN OVERTURF and ETHEL (CRAFT) OVERTURF

Frank Overturf was united in marriage with Ethel Craft, daughter of Charles and Lulu Craft of Elk Creek, Nebraska, December 22, 1908. In April of 1909 they moved to Bird City, Kansas and resided on a place bought and improved by Frank's father. Their entire family was born on this farm.

Helen was born June 26, 1911, and is married to Paul Darnell of Salina, Kansas. They have one son, Dale, born May 5, 1934. They reside at Superior, Nebraska where Paul teaches music and band in the schools.

Hester was born May 25, 1913, and is married to Rodney W. Markham of Mead, Colorado. They have one son, Charles, born August 7, 1940. Rodney owns the Mead Transfer.

Ruth was born June 17, 1918, and is married to Eugene Duvall of Bayfield, Colorado. They are now at Columbine, Colorado where Eugene works in the saw mill. They have one son, Francis Kay, who was born January 17, 1938.

Beulah was born December 10, 1919, and is married to Robert Casperson of Idaho Springs, Colorado. They now live at Clairton, Pennsylvania where Robert works in the steel mills. They have two sons; Jack, born October 30, 1938, and Richard, born April 9, 1940.

Frances was born August 16, 1924. Because of the heat and dust the family moved to Idaho Springs in January, 1935, where they still reside. Frances is a Junior in high school.

The family also has another address in Texas at Vernon. This probably will change to Amarillo early in 1941, as Frank is manager of Co-operative Insurance in Texas and State Organizer for the Farmers Union in Texas.

By FRANK OVERTURF,  
Idaho Springs, Colorado,  
November 3, 1940.





## XII.—Tamson

Carl H. Jacka and Tamson Overturf were married on October 14, 1909. The ceremony took place out on the crossroads, over the county line just a few rods west of the old home place. Carl had procured the license in Tecumseh, forgetting that my home was across the line in Nemaha County. It was a lovely moon-light night, and after the wedding, the party went back into the house, the ceremony was repeated in a corner of the living room which had previously been prepared for the occasion. Brother John was living on the home place at the time.

Carl's mother, Mary Ellen Huston, was born in Ohio and came to Nebraska in an early day with her parents. His father was born in England and came to this country when he was twenty years old, about 1870. He returned to England three times to visit and although he had several brothers and sisters, none of the others ever came to this country. So far as we know there are no relatives here although we have heard of the name once or twice.

With the exception of eight years spent on a farm four miles east of Tecumseh our entire married life has been spent on the farm where we now reside and which is Carl's father's homestead. It is two and one-half miles east of Tecumseh, Nebraska.

We have one daughter living, Wilma Ellen, and a son and daughter deceased at birth. Wilma was born January 29, 1911. She finished the eighth grade in the same school house where her father attended school and where her grand-mother Jacka had taught several terms. She graduated from the Tecumseh High School in 1928, came back and taught two years in her home school, then attended Peru State Teachers College for three years and taught the primary grades at Crab Orchard, Nebraska, for two years.

On August 6, 1935 she was married to Walter T. Roberts, a farmer living northeast of Tecumseh and whose grandparents were early day settlers in this community and whose grandfather was a veteran of the Civil War. Their family consists of Jo Anne Walters, a daughter by a previous marriage and whose mother died when she was two weeks old. She was born April 24, 1932. Two boys, Terry Thomas born August 24, 1938 and Carl Anthony (Tony) born November 2, 1939. They are both auburn haired and blue eyed, husky little lads. At present they live on a farm three miles east and one mile north of Tecumseh.

By TAMSON (Overturf) JACKA,  
Tecumseh, Nebraska,  
November 4, 1940.

XIII. Ellen Myrle. Born March 10, 1893, died August 26, 1894.

XIV. Unnamed son, born March 17, 1893, lived one week.

I insert the following history for the special benefit of our immediate families, and our children, because of the personal touch given to it by father, even though there is some repetition in Part II.—Jesse R. Overturf.





## A FAMILY HISTORY

By JOHN LAKE OVERTURF

(Written in the winter of 1909-10 at Fort Morgan, Colorado.)

I was born in Northwest Licking County, Ohio, two and a half miles Southwest of Appleton and three and a half miles Northwest of Johnstown, on September 25, 1850. I was born on my Father's farm where we resided until I was 13 years old. I attended school first in an old log house on the West bank of a sluggish stream called Bold Run. (Just West of the site of the present school house which my son John got a kodak picture of when he was in Ohio.) We had slabs for seats. A board laid on pins driven in the wall served as a desk, and when the pupils wanted to write they would have to swing around with their faces to the wall. I attended school in this old house two or three terms. I think it was in '56 or '57 that our new frame house was built. It was late in the season when the house was finished, and the weather was very cold. As I remember it they finished plastering on a Saturday and school began on the following Monday. Fire was kept in the room over Sunday to dry the plastering as much as possible. A man by the name of Nathen Duke was our teacher. On account of the dampness of the room and the intense cold on the outside, the teacher and all the pupils caught very bad colds, which retarded the progress of the school considerably, and finally the teacher was taken down with lung fever and had to give up the school.

At that time, and for several years after, and in fact as long as I went to school "teachers boarded round," that is they would board a week at one place and then go to another, and if they got once around before "school was out" they would start on the second round. Those were great times for us children when the teacher came to our house to board.

Well do I remember the old "deadnin's" in the country in my early life. Men would girdle the trees with an ax, (I think in August or September) and they would die and in a few years would begin to fall, and the wind, or the direction the trees leaned guided their fall. Consequently by the time they were all down we had a tangled mass of logs lying criss cross all over the ground, and in the meantime the "deadnin's" would look like a jungle on account of the briars and elders that had grown up. (And by the way I have never seen cultivated blackberries that excelled the ones that grew in those old "deadnin's," either as to size or flavor.) I never had the experience of helping to "clean up" one of those jungles but once. Father fenced and cleared about five acres one spring. Logs of about 2½ feet and under he would log with the ax. Larger ones he would have me "nigger," which I proceeded to do by building a number of fires on the log, and the distance the fires were apart were guaged by the size of the log. (We would "nigger" them in lengths just so a team could pull them around to start a log heap.) We would start as many fires as we could keep going. The ground was covered with chunks from the broken limbs of the trees, so we were "killing two birds with one stone." By the time we would get around to our first fire the chunks would all be burned. We would take a pail and rub the coals loose on the log, pile on some more chunks and and so on round. Some of the larger logs it would take a day or two to burn through.

In the spring of 1863 Father sold out, and on the 22nd of September, '63 we moved onto a rented place about four miles from there. A man by the name of Jacob Van Fassen owned the place. It was just one mile south of Hartford, Ohio. My brother Jim was born there December 5, 1863. We lived there until the 22nd of September, 1866, when we started for Keokuk County, Iowa, where Father's brother "Jim" had gone six years before. We landed in Knox County, Illinois on the 14th of October, 1866, having been on the road three weeks. Here we met my Mother's half sister, Aunt Mary Ann Kelso and "Grand Pap" Corbin and Dr. Sheldon, my wife's father. Of course they wanted us to stop there. Father didn't want to, but finally they prevailed on him enough that he agreed to leave his teams and family there until he could go on out to Iowa and see if the opportunity for a poor man was any better than in Illinois, and if not, he and Mother had made up their minds to stop there. Father took the train at Knoxville, Illinois and went to Burlington, where they still had to ferry the river, and found that he could not get to







Sigourney, Iowa by rail. The nearest point was at Washington, about 30 miles east of there, and the only way he could get that near was to go up the river to some point and then West to Washington. The connections were very poor so he gave it up and came back.

He rented Grandpa Sheldon's farm, (As I am writing this for the benefit of my children more than anyone else I will use the familiar names), for the ensuing year, and they gave up part of their house to live in. We had the kitchen and upstairs and they the balance of the house. Everything went along nicely that fall and winter, but the inevitable came as it always does and always will where two families try to live in one house. And sometime in April we moved into a little house three-quarter's of a mile from there, which belonged to a man by the name of Eldredge. In the meantime Father had bought 80 acres of land, but there were no improvements on it, but he built a house and we moved onto it the same fall, 1867. We broke out some, and fenced it in the spring of 1868, and Father and Mother lived there until the fall of 1887 when they moved to Johnson County, Nebraska where they resided until Mother's death in 1904.

I was married to Alzina M. Sheldon January 19th, 1869. To this union were born fourteen children:

Etta Manerva, born July 11, 1869.

Ida Dell, born April 23, 1871.

William Fuller, born February 19, 1874.

John Horton, born November 7, 1875.

Emma Tryphena, born February 19, 1878.

Charles Elmus, born May 12, 1880.

Harley James, born April 6, 1882.

Jesse Ray, born April 9, 1884.

Tresse Jay, born April 9, 1884, died the day he was born.

George Edwin, born April 20, 1886.

Elbert Franklin, born March 25, 1888.

Myrtle Tamson, born January 19, 1891.

Ellen Merle, born March 10, 1893, died August 26, 1894.

Our youngest, a boy, born March 17, 1896. He lived to be one week old only, and we hadn't named him.

Ten of our children, seven boys and three girls, are living yet to bless us with their kindness.

I will now go back and give a somewhat detailed account of how Ma and I have struggled together to try and get us a home and bring up our family and have a competency for old age. When we were married I did not have enough to "set up" housekeeping, so I worked for Grandpa Sheldon until the fall of 1869. By that time I had earned \$60.00. I rented land from a man by the name of Wyman for the next year but there wasn't any house on it, but he said if I would furnish my own house and dig a well, when I left the place I could remove the house or he would pay me first cost for it, at my discretion. So I bought an old log house of Jerry Wallack for \$50.00 and borrowed the money on a year's time at 10% per annum to pay for it. I got a bunch of neighbors one day and tore it down and moved it, and when I got things ready the neighbors came another day and "raised" it for me. And then it took two or three weeks to "chunk and daub" it. Father helped me a great deal in this, but we finally got it done.

I went to town with what I had left of my \$60.00 and bought a cook stove for \$29.00 and a few other things we had to have. By the way, I had watched my chance, and had bought at sales, a table for 50c, a bedstead for 50c and at last the great day came when we moved in and went to "keepin house." We talk of the present high prices. The things we had to buy to eat and wear at that time were very high too, and labor much cheaper than now. To give you an instance, I took a job in the winter of 1869 and '70 of making 1000 rails at \$1.00 per 100 and he paid me in wheat at a \$1.10 per bushel. So you see I had to make 110 rails for a bushel of wheat. Hogs were \$9.00 per cwt.





Corn 75c per bushel and so on. Groceries, we got 9 lbs. of sugar for a \$1.00 and other things in about the same proportion. Grandpa Sheldon had given Ma a horse and Wyman said he would let me have a horse to work for a year if I would winter it. So I cut some hay on shares, and cut 12 acres of corn and husked it for three-fourths of the fodder. And that is the way we got our first team to work.

I put in my first crop in the spring of 1870, consisting of 16 acres of corn, (which I tended with a double shovel and a single horse) and 7 acres of oats, which were so poor when harvest came I could not afford to hire them cut with a reaper, so I bought a cradle for \$3.00 and cut them myself and Father bound them for me, and my landlord took one-third of them in the stack instead of in the bushel. We lived on that place until the fall of 1872 when I bought 40 acres of Grandpa Sheldon for \$750.00 on a contract with a bond for a deed. I put a cellar under the house, built a good wagon shed, put a picket fence around the garden, built considerable other new fence, cleared and broke considerable of the land; but I was never able to pay more than the interest and taxes. (I was paying 10% interest). In the spring of 1877 Grandpa took the land off my hands and gave me \$250.00 for the improvements I had made. In the meantime, or to be more exact, on January 20th, 1876, I had bought 80 acres of land that adjoined the 40. Paid a \$1000.00 for it at 10%, and borrowed all the money of Jacob Ackerman to pay for it. I gave him my note with personal security, with \$200.00 due in three years, and a note for \$800.00 due in five years secured by a mortgage on the land. I made 5000 rails and fenced it the first spring I had it. I used it for pasture the first year, and the second year I broke 16 acres of it and put it in corn. That same fall, 1877 I sold out for \$1300.00. The fellow gave \$500.00 in cash and assumed the mortgage. We made all possible haste, and on October 3rd, 1877 we started for Nebraska. Our worldly belongings amounted to four horses, one wagon and harness, our bedding and \$160.00 in money. We drove overland, arriving in Johnson County, Nebraska October 24th. I rented a farm but could not get possession until spring. We rented a house to winter in and I went to work, and we managed to exist until we raised a crop. Three and a half years from that time we had 160 acres of land and had it paid for, besides building a shanty on it. This is the home we now have, where most of our family was born and all of them who are living, grew to manhood and womanhood, and where the most happy years of our lives were spent.

As to the evolution of harvest machinery. They were mowing most of the grass with a scythe when I can first remember. I have scattered grass a good many times after the mowers, but I never mowed any (that is to make hay). The first successful mower I ever saw, my Grandfather Overturf bought. He got it I think about 1862. But the small grain was all cut with the cradle. All the old reap-hook or sickle were used for since I can remember was to cut the down grain we could not get with the cradle. I cut quite a good deal of grain with a cradle the harvest before I was 14 years old, and I have cut a good many acres since I was married, on rough and stony ground in Illinois where we could not get on with a reaper. But the first machine I ever saw cutting grain was in Ohio in the year 1866. A man by the name of Wells was cutting for Nathaniel Evans. It was a Buckeye and a man stood on the back part of the platform and shoved the bundles off with a wooden fork. We then "evoluted" to the selfrake. The first selfrake I ever saw was in Illinois. It was a Walter A. Wood. I think this was about '73 or '74. Men gathered around it and predicted that was about as near perfection as they would ever get a harvesting machine.

When I came to Nebraska they were harvesting nearly all of the grain with headers, but about 1880 they began to get some wire binders in the country. Dave Durst had the first one in our neighborhood. In 1882 they got the first twine binders in that section. Osgood and I bought a new threshing machine in the fall of '82 and we had a mixed lot of threshing. Some cut with reapers and stacked loose, and some cut with Marsh Harvesters and bound by hand, and some cut with headers. Some with twine and some with wire binders. Since the twine binder there has been no change.

As to religious and political beliefs,—I believe there is a God and that He is the Creator of all things, and that He holds the destiny of every human







being in His hands, but at the same time I believe He has made a general law governing the world and to a great extent the salvation of every soul is in his own hands, by complying with this general law or rejecting it. In the winter of 1869 and '70 I professed Religion and joined the Christian Church and for a few years took quite an active part in church work, but after we came to Nebraska I have never been affiliated with any church. I have no sympathy with church creeds, dogmas and formalities, socials and all the modern ways of replenishing the treasury of the church. I am afraid if Christ were to visit the earth at this time He would find most of the Synagogues in the hands of money changers.

In politics I have always been a Democrat, but not of the ilk of the 27 so-called Democrats who voted for the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Bill. The first opportunity I had to vote for presidential electors was in the fall of 1872. Grant was the Republican candidate and Horace Greeley was nominated by what was called the Liberal Republicans and endorsed by the Democrats. I wouldn't vote for either, although Grandfather Lake plead with me to vote for Greeley. While he said Greeley wasn't his choice, he thought anything would be better than Grant. So my first ballot cast for president was for Samuel J. Tilden in 1876 (whom we elected and they stole it from us). I voted for the regular Democratic nominees from that on until Cleveland's second nomination when I could not reconcile his and John G. Carlyl's policies with Democratic ideas, and I could not vote the Republican ticket, so did not vote that time, and I turned Alton B. Parker down, I cannot and will not vote for a plutocrat and against the common people.

**Note:** I have two other family histories prepared by my brother John. One, a family history of Nancy Sheldon, my Mother's mother, and the other of S. F. Overturf, my Father's father.—By Jesse R. Overturf.





Wm. E. Overturf  
Susan E. Overturf  
Lillian E. Overturf  
Geo. E. Overturf  
Edith E. Overturf  
Abigail E. Overturf  
Ellen E. Overturf  
Lillian E. Overturf

Born April 28 - 1882.  
Born April 28 - 1884.  
Born April 28 - 1884.  
Born April 28 - 1886.  
Born April 28 - 1888.  
Born January 19 - 1891.  
Born March 10 - 1893.  
Born March 17 - 1896.

"I, Geo. E. Overturf, first being duly sworn, deposth and sayeth, that the above is a true photostat copy of the birth record of the children of Alzina M. and John Lake Overturf, as recorded in the Family Bible."

Sworn to before me this 1st day of May, 1941

Notary Public

My commission expires 11/23/45

Geo. E. Overturf

Geo. E. Overturf









EXHIBIT

BOOK

BIRTHS

John E. Overturf  
Alfred M. Overturf  
Dorothy M. Overturf  
Edgar M. Overturf  
William M. Overturf  
John M. Overturf  
Dorothy M. Overturf  
Charles E. Overturf  
W. Carlisle M. Overturf  
Lillian M. Overturf  
Lillian M. Overturf  
Geo. E. Overturf  
Edward J. Overturf  
Martha J. Overturf  
Ellen Mabel Overturf  
Eugene M.

Born September 25th - 1886.  
Born July 4th - 1883.  
Born July 1st - 1869.  
Born April 23rd - 1877.  
Born February 4th - 1874.  
Born December 17th - 1875.  
Born February 17th - 1878.  
Born May 13th - 1880.  
Born April 7th - 1882.  
Born April 29th - 1884.  
Born April 7th - 1884.  
Born April 20th - 1886.  
Born March 25th - 1888.  
Born January 19th - 1891.  
Born March 10th - 1893.  
Born March 17th - 1896.

"I, Geo. E. Overturf, first being duly sworn, deposth and sayeth, that the above is a true photostat copy of the birth record of the children of Alzina M. and John Lake Overturf, as recorded in the Family Bible."

Sworn to this 1st day of May, 1941

Notary Public

My commission expires 11/23/45

Geo. E. Overturf  
Geo. E. Overturf







**Part II**

**Written by**  
**N. F. OVERTURE**  
**2922 Euclid Square,**  
**Los Angeles, California**  
**1924**

**Ordered Printed First by**  
**GEORGE E. OVERTURE**  
**Hastings, Nebraska**  
**August, 1928**

**This Printing by**  
**J. R. OVERTURE**  
**Palo Alto, California**  
**November, 1941**







DEDICATED to the Blood of SIMON AND MARY DeBOLT OVERTURF—

Remote or near, first or last page, each has his or her full share

Would YOU know the unseen Sire of Kin or Klan?

Scan his descent, young and old, each child, woman, man  
All have some trait of his, either weakness or the grand,  
Some seem true, exact; as clear as footprints in wet sand,  
Others have mere quirk, faint sentiment, All have his brand—

Search all, compare each with all, there his likeness see, UNDERSTAND.

A more easy fount of Sort, of Type, of Kind,

Is his evidence of character in things he left behind;

A fence, a gate, a carve of ax, prove his strength of mind—

Walls, strong, square, true combined, herald for eternity inclined—  
Radio waves, endless, time; so acts live ever free from grind

They are but recorded thoughts, to make true self an easy find.

VISION: See Sire Simon, grey eyed, sandy, strong and Tall;

Manners, hasty, blunt and bluff, with genial greeting in it All

WISE? Not so, yet more than average honesty and candor of the race,

Ever willing, always ready to accept, or fill, an honest public place

With saw, plane, ax, maul, he loved to make the shop, the woodland ring—

His ancestry may have wrought on Ships for some early VIKING KING;

His countenance beamed, as proof of where he trod,

Joy to eat to live, confidence in nature, TRUST in GOD.

MARY, Mother of our clan, imagination sees you, Stockey, Stout,

With dark piercing eyes, You seem delving for some other soul's intent,

Your ambitious step and searching words silence can't and doubt,

Firm in your ways, rare by others bent, very, very slow, if ever, to relent—

Parents of our standard: Ordinary, but royally honest in nature, true,

You bestowed us pure blood, balanced mind, quick spirit, much to adore,

Gave as examples, faithful toil, respect for law, and life as best you knew,

Now thoughts of them, by words extole, Hearts Consecrate EVERMORE.

(Non-copied—Written as a part of this Dedication)

This narrator has personal, or credible knowledge of many individuals, who are descendants, not farther removed than the Fifth generation, following the Common Ancestors above named, these augmented by the number well known, who have lived and passed on, as well as some knowledge of contiguous blood relations, the statements and assertions herein made are plead as intuition, and the only apology or pardon craved is, error common to humanity.

By a general survey and a close appraisalment conviction decides that a prominent characteristic of this blood is, willingness to assume PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY. They seem to have attained a fair share of the lower strata of "public lime light." Though almost universally born and reared in the back country of humble homes and limited means and opportunities; FIVE were preachers; EIGHT were lawyers; TWENTY-ONE public instructors; FOUR did military service; FORTY-FOUR filled public places by appointment or election; an aggregate of 82, there may be some not discovered for this compilation. Between 1830 and 1924, 94 years, the aggregate years of service for all, was 297, or more, near a year for each individual. During that period one sire and his adult descendants, in all 86 individuals, totaled 187 years in various public places, or positions, some occupied two or more at the same time. One held ten public trusts before he was 60 years old; sometimes had three or four on his hands at the same time.

The fact, that various persons of Overturf blood, in a majority of the families of that stock, held some public place, seems proof of an inherent passion that came by descent and the summary given on the preceding page shows they have used their inheritance well, if they were MERE Common Folks. A much higher merit in the blood is a generally prevailing decency in morality, respect for law and order, strong inclination to Spirituality. In five gen-







erations considered, only one known arrest for violation of the law; one, only, known to become a public charge; in all of those who have been and are known to narrator, not an individual is found who did not show respect, confidence and esteem in the Christian religion, and a majority were members of some Protestant Christian Church. As evidence of the inheritance of good blood and sound mentality, narrator in tracing all known or heard of has not found one idiotic, foolish, insane, dumb, imbecile by age, who were of the blood of SIMON and MARY. True, many have been swept into reckless evil and hasty amours, but from a human view, that may be expected by a folk of good health and strong appetite, as they.

### No Known Record of Early Ancestral History

Family legend among the Ohio Overturfs was universal, that the Overturfs were from Pennsylvania and of German blood, some few claimed a Holland ancestry, and Overturf ability and inclination does seem to fit into the general characteristics of the Holland race, than German.

Thankful gratitude is here entered to Mrs. Martha E. Stosneider, of Richwood, Union county, Ohio, who is a descendant of the Overturfs of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Sarah Overturff Coan, of Pinebank, Green county, Pennsylvania who very promptly by letter gave corroborative legend of the family of their great-grandfather, who came from Saxony, Germany, in the latter part of 1700, and settled near McClelland Town, Fayette county, Pennsylvania; that his name was John. That he had several sons, John, their grandfather, and Jesse, both died in Green county, Pennsylvania. (S. F. Overturf's father had a cousin, Jacob Overturf, who was a teamster in the War of 1812, hence his father was a brother of Simon. This was probably John in the preceding line.) Two other sons, Jacob and Conrad, emigrated to Ohio. Have no knowledge that any other relatives came from Saxony. It was taught and they always have spelled the name to end in (f.) There are many Debolts now living in Green county, Pennsylvania, but have no information that any ever married an Overturf, nor have they knowledge of any Overturfs other than descendants of their great-grandfather.

One William Debolt, a commissioner of Green county, Pennsylvania, P. O. Wayensburg, Pennsylvania, has not responded, like many others, to a letter written him.

There are three separate branches of Overturfs in Ohio each emigrated there from Pennsylvania, likely about the same time, early in 1800. Major John Overturf, of Portsmouth, Ohio, who died in Columbus, Ohio, about 1920, was of the descendent of one branch most likely of the Jacob mentioned by Mrs. Coan above; his father operated a grain mill near Portsmouth, Ohio.

John was an active officer in the Union Army in War of 1861, and afterwards operated a bank in Portsmouth; was unsuccessful, lost all he had, then entered the life insurance business, moved to Columbus, Ohio, as a managing solicitor did well, was prominent in G. A. R., was strong for the G. O. P., was short stout built, dark hair and eyes, jolly as any of his name. Said he had a brother in the insurance business in Buffalo, New York, who was in very easy circumstances, had a big business and influence. Narrator has seen his sign on a conspicuous street. John married a Kendal, and they had but a son named Kendall. He graduated in law from the Ohio State University, began a flattering practice in Columbus. The World War called him, he took pneumonia in a training camp and died, leaving a widow and one son. She was a Miss Randall, after his death held a directory position in O. S. U. Is now at Delaware, Ohio as the head of governing management at Monett Hall, the female function of the O. W. U., filling her second appointment.

Another branch of the Overturfs settled at Newark, Licking county Ohio. Probably descendents of the Conrad mentioned herein by Mrs. Sarah Overturf Coan, are those known to narrator, and here mentioned. One Conrad was the keeper of the County Jail at Newark, Ohio, for many years; a John Overturf, with whom narrator had a little business, was head of the local freight department of the B. and O. railroad at Newark. He was a jolly, brisk, gentlemanly fellow, affable and easy to well remember, in type strong enough to be a full brother to Major John, of Portsmouth. The Newark John had a son, J. W., a shoe cobbler in Newark. This John moved to Columbus, Ohio, about







1902. He was not up to the standard of his father. One Jacob Overturf, owned and operated a saloon down by the canal in Newark. It was common knowledge, that the descendants of Simon and Mary Debolt Overturf, recognized and claimed cousin-ship relation with the Newark set. Major John said in his early memory his father went often to Newark to see the relatives there. These little facts tie the Overturffs of Pennsylvania, and the Overturfs of Ohio, as of one common ancestry likely in Saxony, Germany, or Holland. Not of much difference in measurement of blood as the embroilment and strife in that region in past centuries was opportune to mix blood rapidly and may have hurled some Irish into the hurdle of the Overturf clan, as the sandy complexion and occasional red head, and usual quick, keen retorts give strong indication of Erin quality.

The third branch of Overturfs in Ohio, was headed by SIMON and MARY DeBOLT OVERTURF, who gave life and name to ten offsprings as SOLOMON, ELIZABETH, GEORGE, ELI, SIMON, MANERVA, ORPHA, JERAMIAH D., MARIAH, and WILLIAM MARTIN. Prevailing legend is that most of them, if not all of them, were born near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, from where they emigrated and settled in Licking county, Ohio, north of Newark, not far from Dry Creek, on land entered from the government. "Dock" Overturf, son of George, above named, stated, his grand-father entered 320 acres from the government at \$1.25 per acre, and that both of his grand-parents are buried in Big Hill cemetery, between Utica and Newark, Ohio. That his uncle Solomon, narrator's father, was a teamster in the War of 1812. That Eli and Simon emigrated to Iowa in 1856; that Jeremiah, Orpha and MARY emigrated to Missouri. This narrator is positive Manerva married Jacob Eccles and lived in Morrow county, Ohio, and he has visited in the homes of six of her children. William Debolt, a cousin to the second generation given above, stated he had often been at grand-father's old home near Dry Creek, when a boy, and gave narrator a description of it also stated there was a Mariah in the family, who married a McInturf, that he had been at her home in Indiana. (This is given as discrepancy.) As "Dock" states, Manerva married a Welch and moved to Missouri. He, "Dock," says that his grand-father, Simon, above named, was born in Germany in 1774, and after he was twenty-one, came to Hagerstown, Pennsylvania, there met and married Mary DeBolt, a French girl, though born in Pennsylvania. (Returned letter indicates no Hagerstown in Pennsylvania. Reply of custodian of public records from Hagerstown, Maryland: "No record of Overturf." Advised that no public license for marriage in Pennsylvania till late in 19th century.)

"Dock" had better than ordinary remembrance. Therefore, respect, thankful reverence and humble gratitude be to his memory; and the same to his grandson, John H. Overturf, of Erickson, Nebraska, who recorded and transcribed for narrator the legend he gave is here entered and acknowledged.

Simon, the progenitor of this family, was a wood mechanic, a cabinet maker, and it must have been well steeped in his blood and spirit, as the ability oozed out graciously and almost universally in his descendants as natural wood workers. The family was regarded as Pennsylvania Dutch, and the older members made frequent utterances in that tongue, without any German accent.

Narrator knows but little more than already written of the DeBolts. All that he ever saw had rather piercing black or dark eyes, profuse dark hair, were stockey, quick motioned, rather inclined to be eccentrically erratic and inclined to be religious. Exception as to stockey, was one George, of the very old set, a preacher, a kind of veterinary. He came often from eastern Licking county to Liberty township, on horse back and always with his immense, leather saddlebags hanging on behind him. He had steady, brilliant black eyes that seemed to see the very soul and spirit of all about him; had an abundant hair on his crown, did not wear beard, was strong built and very tall, rumor was DeBolts had a slight strain of Indian blood. All DeBolts had strong liking for horses. William Debolt, a full cousin to the second generation of Overturfs of general consideration herein, well known to narrator, was stockey, quick speech, heavy bushy crown not heavy beard, a preacher in his early days—said he could be heard a mile away—a strong Democrat, and thrifty farmer, at death owned three good farms. Was born in Licking county, Ohio, about 1813—or 1814. Said he was often at his uncle Simon Overturf's







home and knew well every member of the family as his father lived but a short distance from them, that he could run over there afoot. The TEN children of Simon and Mary lived to maturity and become as heads of families in Ohio, and will be severly considered herein, but for reasons of the narrator not in the order of age or birth, insignificance nor noble worth.

ELIZABETH OVERTURF was of the older of the children of Simon and Mary Overturf. She married John Pane, and died about 1866, in Hartford Township, Licking county, Ohio at an advanced age, and had been a widow many years. They had children, named Nimrod, Mariah, Ishamel, William, Roxana, John. Narrator knew intimately only Nimrod, John and Roxana. Nimrod married Elizabeth Jacobus; they had two daughters, Sarah and Adah, both were successful school teachers. Sarah married John Ledley; they resided many years in southern Kansas, both now dead, had but one child, a son, who is said to be an expert broomcorn judge and a heavy dealer in the East. Adah married Clarence Sprague, who operated and managed printing and newspaper at Westville, O. Adah died there about 1918. They have two children, Nimrod was Justice of Peace and Notary Public for many years and a fine wood mechanic. Nimrod had a son before he was married, Isaac, who took his name, though he never lived in his father's family, he visited there, was treated as genially and affectionately as any son and brother could expect. He was a carpenter, run a country store, was Justice of Peace, moved to a near town was mayor, and died.

JOHN PANE was a carpenter. All of Aunt Betty Pane's boys were of that trade, was for a long time a Justice of Peace, lived a long part of his life in Licking county, then moved to Delaware county, Ohio, and died there.

ROXANA PANE married Frank Corbin, a farmer, and they did reside in the west part of Licking county, Ohio. Aunt Betty Pane was short heavy set, dark complected; she and all her children had keen black eyes of the Debolt type of people; it is assumed she was much like her mother.

ORPHA OVERTURF was likely of the middle set in the children of Simon and Mary. She married John Dilaplain and they emigrated West before the memory of this narrator it is; said they went to Missouri.

MARIAH or MARY OVERTURF was among the younger of the children of Simon and Mary; it has been said she married — Welch and also asserted she married — McInturf, and moved to Indiana, and moved with the Dilaplains to Missouri. Among these discrepancies the odds is little, since the two last named have both disappeared so completely from the knowledge of relatives they are not likely to ever be discovered, or that they have not a full part in this delineation.

SIMON OVERTURF was probably the fifth child, fourth son, of his parents, Simon and Mary; married an Adrams, of Virginia stock, whose relatives resided in Kingston Township, Delaware county, Ohio. He in an early time owned land and lived on a farm about two miles east of Old Eden in that county, but moved to Tama county, Iowa, about 1856, where after a successful life in farming he died. Narrator has not yet beenable to discover any of his descendants. Only recollection is that he had a son, Simon, who was about the age of his eldest brother, who died and that a letter from them soon after they went to Iowa, gave information they had threshed their oats and had a 1000 bushels. Our and Uncle George's folks had farms in a yellow clay white oak country, where it took a lifetime to clear a farm and get into raising a grain crop in the 100 bushel class; these people had been but a short time on their own land, in a new country and were moving in the 1000 bushel zone. That was too high for them to realize, too much to fully believe. They lacked knowledge to measure rich prairie land.

ELI OVERTURF was likely the third son and fourth child in the second generation being considered. He married Catherine Abrams, a sister to Simon's wife above named; it is said they married in Virginia. They lived for some years in Delaware county, Ohio, east of Old Eden, and emigrated from there about 1856 to near Ottumwa, Iowa. He was a farmer and died near or at Lakesburg, Iowa, and she at or near Bloomington, Iowa. He died September 22, 1864. They had children named Rebecca Ann Simon, Michell, George, Solomon,







Stephen, Ditha and Mary Katherine. Narrator never saw any of these except Rebecca Ann and Steve. He was in Ohio a while after living in Iowa, is said to be a bachelor, residing in Colorado. Rebecca Ann married Henry Reed Carpenter, a miller by trade, reared in Delaware county, Ohio, on the River road three miles south of Delaware. They lived on west Winter Street, Delaware, about 1865, narrator visited them. They had two daughters, the eldest, Lucinda Estella, was a dark complectioned, and very beautiful young lady, then about eighteen years old. She married Benjamin Justin Richardson of Delaware, and located in Indianapolis. They had some family. While burning leaves, her clothing caught fire and she was burned to cause her death. Rebecca Ann, her mother, also died in Indianapolis.

Jessie Carpenter, her sister, more fully expressed the Overturf trait in more than one particular. She is self confident, exacting, yet generous and sociable. She expressed the family trait, "Willingness to assume public responsibility," as she for many years was deputy in the Office of Secretary of State, Indianapolis, Indiana. Narrator was informed by one qualified to know, "that she soon acquired the business and duties, and from then on run the office," until she married; and is now Mrs. Jessie Kershner associated with her husband in Loan & Insurance, with offices in Odd Fellows Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Narrator wrote a letter to any Overturf at Blakesburgh, Iowa, and was rewarded by a reply from Harvey Marion Overturf. We understand is a great-grand-son of Eli, whose father was George Freeman Overturf. This Harvey Marion Overturf, refers us to Marion Overturf, of Belnap, Iowa. A letter to him has no reply. He is said to be a grand-son of Eli. Harvey Marion Overturf gives his age as—. A brother, Charles Henry, 35; sister, Carrie, 31; Alice, 29; Ethel, 27, and a brother, Freeman, 23.

This informer, Harvey Marion, is married and has two children, Ralph Roy, age 8, and Thelma Lucile, aged 5. William Overturf seems to be a grand-father of this Harvey Marion, and father of Marion.

JEREMIAH D. OVERTURF. (The D. is probably for Debolt,) was the fifth son and probably the eighth child of the ancestral family, regardless of birth or any other rank, he was the capital rover of the family. Narrator about 1892, accidentally got into correspondence with him and he wrote. He was then living in Star City, Texas, with his fourth wife; that Texas was the seventh state he had made a home in; was in the shoe trade; had several properties and was in easy circumstances. His wife died soon after and he took up his home in Oregon, at or near Clear Water, where he died at an advanced age, above any of the names so far as known; best recollection is he was past 95. The correspondence mentioned continued until about the time of his death; was always clear and well expressed, well written in his own hand and far surpassed many written by men of much younger years. One contained his photograph, shows a full bearded, keen eyed, self confident look, with a demeanor that expresses courage and determination void of worry, but full of hope. Though he had been a dark eyed, sandy complectioned man in his earlier days, he was now a grey haired patriarch in his eighties he was still spry and active. No record can be made of his family. A Mr. Samuel Oliver, who once resided east of Old Eden, Delaware county, Ohio, said he was at one time a near neighbor of Jeremiah, who owned a forty-acre tract where he lived and made his ends for necessity by shoe making. This forty-acres was a deadening in prime shape to clear. That Jerry would stand out by his cabin and in vision seem to see, what ease to him would come if his land produced, would with a sweep of eye and hand say, "all that deadening will be in corn this spring." Spring passed, clearing not done. Then he would say, "Well, too late for corn, but buckwheat is a better crop for a poor man and I will clear it and put it in buckwheat." Clearing not done in summer Jerry would say, "Fall of the year is the best time to clear and anyway a winter wheat crop is the best and on that new land it will make a crop if sown as late as Christmas and I'll put her all in winter wheat." The deadening was still there after Christmas, and he finally sold out and moved away and left the deadening.

Whether this tale is true or false, it proves an abiding faith in the future, an unquenched hope for the better, a desire to build higher and slothful as it may appear. Jerry's unswerving grind on hope likely crushed many of his dis-







couragements and he somehow attained above the average of men, in finance, moral and religious contact, a social life of varied conditions of family bonds. What an experience he underwent, zigzagging through more than half dozen of the States, across half the Continent, four marriages, four deaths, to end a career of more than eighty years under untried conditions, in new experiences, but these qualities only express the quality, that HOPE had been his GUIDING STAR through life, that TRUST was his ANCHOR.

Is there a stronger proof of CHRISTIAN CHARACTER, than an uncomplaining trust? Trust prompts venture, seems sometimes to urge risk, but none should be so inane as to believe that human frailties do not exist, that every venture every risk will be success. That serious grief does not exist in the venture, but in the COMPLAINT, that bitter feeling against aspirant trust, instead learn caution for the future risk, and heed duty better in the task. Remember Trust expresses HOPE IN GOD. Dear chic old uncle, your words and photo help to imagine a vision of you, as careless and free of strife jolly, joyous, liberal to all, or whatever came or went, you still hoped on for the best, and your keen eyes seen much and measured well that time. effort is but a dream of the eternal real, which will be revealed to they WHO TRUST IN GOD.

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GEORGE OVERTURF was probably the second son and the third child of Simon and Mary DeBolt Overturf. He was born in Pennsylvania, not far from Pittsburgh, possibly in Fayette or Green county, emigrated to Ohio in the early part of the Nineteenth century. After his marriage to Jane McClain he settled on the east half of the N. W. quarter section U. S. M. L. Range 14, Tp. 6, Liberty Township, Licking county, Ohio, when it was virgin forest, and resided there until his death, June 5, 1862, at the age of 63. He was not tall, heavy set, stout built, dark hair, faint in tinge of sandy, dark gray eyes, jovially brusque and blunt, sincerely and carefully honest, generous and liberal, self confident and tenacious in his convictions, punctually industrious, aptly and skillfully ingenious to do any home or farm demand of the age in which he lived. He cleared his farm, built his log house and barn, supplemented by building frame buildings. The house in which he died was the first frame erected in that vicinity, the first this writer saw, it was on the south side of the public road. The main building was two story with two big rooms below and a vast chamber above, with an open porch the full length and fronted to the east (suppose to catch the morning sun) with a huge fire place in the north end; there was an ell or wring of two rooms. one story high, extending to the west. The room farthest to west was the kitchen, the other with its big fireplace at the west was the living and dining room, with a south porch and a cistern near by, this middle room had a north and south door and is where all the visiting was usually done, and the argument delivered, there is where all callers headed as that north door was nearest the public road. that long east porch gave a full view of a garden to the south-east. A garden, in some features, which had no equal in that vicinity, nor for its peas and beans and such, all grew the common edible fodder. Aunt Jane loved flowers, knew and named them quick on sight—and more, few plants with her which did not have a worth as food or quality as a healing balm, she treasured yarrow, bitter-sweet, spikenard, tansey and all such as saviors of a sound body and good health. She compounded and concocted a salve, an ointment, a douche, bitters or a tea, to heal, sooth, and cure any ordinary ill internal or external. She diagnosed near perfect the case for early relief from a stock at hand that ran from beef gaul rub, balm in gillead wash, to plaintin drafts, marigold tea and tansy bitters with much and many more.

Aunt Jane was tall, regular featured, sedate, cautious woman. exact in all she said and did, a bounteous provider, her table was not to her liking without its well assorted preserves and sauces added to her usual staple foods. She had a distinctive manner of nervous feature, frequent sniffs with a slight backward movement of her head, inclined an early acquaintance to decide she was keenly disdainful, and sarcastic, but it was either unrestrained habit or nervous defect, no charge of unfriendly interest could be truthfully charged to her, but she was firm and not easily bluffed. There was a brusque, positive merchant in Johnstown where they always traded, who had no lack in defending the







quality or price of his goods, it pleased her to tell of the sarcastic bouts had with him, and her fearless retorts.

Aunt Jane was tall, regular featured, sedate,  
Fresh is your counsel, tender touch and dope for finger sore.  
Are vivid as last chat we had, sitting at your old north door.  
You are just as scared, as the day I saw you buried, seen no more.  
Aunt Jane, time hath not dimmed you yet.

That garden was impaled by the ready hand of Uncle George, with split posts and rails, mortised that each rail lapped and extended through the posts, the enclosure completed with driven, pointed pickets, all wrought without costs in money, but for the ax, auger and nails.

Uncle told of a time their horses escaped and he was compelled to go on foot to bring them back, he trailed all day and found them where a man had taken them up, the fellow demanded compensation for their keep, Uncle had no money, they finally squared by Uncle taking off his suspenders and turning them in to get the horse. His brain was resourceful as well as his hands. He built his two story log barn out of timber and split his rails, built high strong fences, repaired his wagons and carriage, cleared his farm, scarce a year till he died, but he did not only add to fields either by clearing or draining a pond, made the boots and shoes for the family and some for others, and did so in an easy commonplace manner as though each fell within his every day trade. He was full proof that the Overturf blood, somewhere in the line was and had been well seathed and decocted by energies from which they absorbed the essence of self confidence to do or try to do anything they wanted done. He was also a clear exponent of the clan. A ready willingness to assume public responsibility. He was elected and served many terms in succession as Trustee of Liberty Township, Licking county, Ohio, where his good nature, fidelity, honor, and judgment multiplied his friends and friendships.

He was strongly endued with conviction as to best time to sow and plant, both he and Aunt kept good tab on the Zodiac and change of moon. Good-Friday was the day to plant early potatoes, and sow flax, and by faith on that day he planted them regardless of sunshine, rain or snow, memory sees him sowing flax in a snow storm, that most hid him cross a little field. Built fences when the moon was new, spread manure and laid shingles when she was in the wane. These signs helped prompt, made punctual industry. Whether it was by following signs or by careful work, sure he succeeded better than the average farmer, he always had a goodly crop that grew well. His fields showed the very best near about, as the boy plowed the corn, he followed with a hoe to insure the crippled stalks had aid, and no unfriendly weed was missed.

He loved company and friendly associations, was ready talker, delighted in discussion with men and jokes with women. Men were few who could remain long within his convivial threshold and not be in some form of defensive argument on a live forensic topic, backed by his keen, blunt retorts; or hedging advances of skillful tact, which usually drew heated interest that brought his best meditated and concentrated thoughts, he was a thinker of what he said, and could aptly send sharp, cutting shafts without reserve or fear of pain, but to his renown that did not lose him friends, for all was interspersed with his jovial, peculiar, friendly guffaws which brushed away any temper rise with an opponent, and his control at such a time was temper proof, such never brought him anger nor a moody sulk, because he loved intense assaults, as zest to give his better point.

Uncle George married early in life, Jane McClain, a daughter of a tailor, and a sister of his brother Solomon's first wife. The two son-in-laws built the old grand-father a cabin and dug him a well on Uncle George's land, about half way between their homes, only about forty rods apart, the cabin and well were there in the memory of this narrator. This father was known by the work he left behind him, as a patient, pains taking artist with skill far in advance or demand of that locality, then. Evidence of this was the great coat of narrator's father, which it was said he did, and the coat was preserved many years after the father had passed on. From the McClain blood came the superior artistic skill enjoyed by Uncle George's family over others of the Overturf Clan, they all had a better flourish in their writing than the others known; in physique and battle, all were more like their dad.







Religiously, Uncle and Aunt attended often and seemed soundly affiliated with the primitive Baptist church, but never joined it.

Politically he was a Democrat, but his mind was too sound judicially to adhere to the fallacy of state's right, and follow the Brekenridge wing in 1860. He stayed with Douglas, and championed some of the strain on the Constitution, but did not vindicate right of cecession and usually regarded as a war Democrat. He was consistent, as memory is, never knew an Old School Baptist that was not a Democrat. In his locality most every body were Democrats, memory recalls it, only three or four families who were not; and it seems a Providential miracle, that under his influence and such environs, four of his five nephews reared to manhood, on an adjoining farm, launched politically different, one a Democrat. His sons all patterned the political faith of their father, and by reason of conditions of the times, (in memory,) and younger, hotter blood, they were more intense than he, and his argumentive lore had use to hold them down.

UNCLE: For thy fame only simple words are necessary;  
We would that words could keep YOUR memory green forever;  
Your jovial quirks were far too many for brief obituary;  
Stern but gracious, blunt but joyous, aptness failed YOU never;  
Never heard YOU blusterthreat of rod, nor menace, 'bout a switch;  
YOU rubbed my nose, tripped my feet, as fight by pretense routes;  
"Said, Musk-Rat here," tore my dam out, I built in your new ditch;  
MY soul was GLAD, when YOU of tender heart, built my first BOOTS.

George and Jane McClain Overturf, had children they named, Hiram, Simon Fuller, Manerva, James, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Malinda, and George. All were born on the farm where their parents settled, as above mentioned, and all lived to become heads of families, except Malinda who was killed by falling from a swing when she was yet a child.

HIRAM OVERTURF, commonly called "Hile" by his chums, was born October 5, 1824, and was married to Rebecca Ilif, October 5, 1847. She was the daughter of one of the most thrifty farmers of the locality and resided at the west end of what was designated as "Dutch Lane," near the central part of Liberty Township, and most of the people were strongly German blood, thrifty, well to do, and had good improvements, and Uncle Ilif kept his a little neater than any, had the show place on the road. Rebecca was a bright, neat, refined little woman, though not physically strong. Hiram was a strong type of Overturf stock, tall, jolly, skillful with tools, a tinge of sandy complexion, loved a good time better than money, could draw the bow and finger the strings in rythme and harmony that warmed many a heart and set the nerves in a tingle in the production of good music by his old time tunes, this was his delight in his younger days. He took earnest active part in social and political life and was repeatedly chosen and served for many years a Justice of the Peace, in Hartford Township, Licking county, Ohio, where he resided a greater part of his life, and his locality sought and neighbors relied on his counsel and advice in business.

His first wife, Rebecca, died November 4, 1864, and left him with three living children, they had twin boys which died in infancy, James the eldest living, was born November 2, 1850, Elizabeth, born April 21, 1857, George W., born November 15, 1859, and died near Condit, Ohio, April 5, 1895.

JAMES OVERTURF was married to Miss Emma Bush, a daughter of Noah Bush, a very prosperous farmer of the vicinity where the Overturf's settled in Liberty Township. James, early manifested a disposition to thrift and hold property in his own right. James, is strongly Overturf in quality, but is modified by the Ilif blood as to skill and thrift. He resides about three miles north-east from Johnstown, Ohio, on the best part of the Old Pumphrey farm, about two miles from where his Grandfather, George Overturf settled, and is thrifty, and as ready to entertain as any of the older stock. They have one son, Noah Hiram Overturf, born June 25, 1874. He married Miss Minnie Mouser, of an old substantial Free Will Baptist family, of the township. His wife is a graduate of Dennison University, Baptist college at Granville, Ohio. They owned, lived on and prospered well, on the farm just across the road from the school house where the older, but of the younger set of Overturf's went to school, after about 1856, as the old log school house stood back off the road







about a hundred rods to the southwest. Noah's farm was the south part of what was earlier known as the Wolf farm, and joined his father's farm at the south. Noah and Minnie have one daughter, Thelma Overturf, who is also a graduate of Dennison college. After graduating, she taught two years and then married Edgar Neptum, a surgeon of Boston, Massachusetts. He has good lineage for his profession as both his mother and father are practicing physicians, of Loudenville, Ohio. Thelma has qualities fit for a scholar as she took her course and attained her Master Degree since she was married.

Noah and his wife are now living in Granville, Ohio. He is in business dealing in hay, grain and stock. His wife is employed as auditor for Dennison University at a salary of \$1000 for school year.

Hiram's daughter, Elizabeth Overturf, married Nelson Webb, February 2, 1878. They have a son who is time keeper and secretary of a lumber company in Michigan.

George W. Overturf was married to Miss Mary Condit, of Trenton Township, Delaware county, Ohio, January 1, 1882 and resided about a mile north of Condit's Corners where he died and his widow still resides. He died leaving children named Willie, Essie, now deceased, Osie and Earl. Earl Overturf is now married, Willie and his sister Osie are still at home with their mother on their large farm north of Condit's Postoffice.

March 24, 1867, Hiram married his second wife, Miss Mary Potter, who died April 24, 1887. He had one daughter, Carrie Overturf, by his second marriage. She married Frank Chonier to whom were born two daughters. Carrie died in 1924. After Hiram's second wife died he spent the remainder of his days living among his children, principally with George or his family and his youngest daughter, Carrie, at whose home he died, aged SEVENTY-SIX.

#### Simon Fuller Overturf

Well-known and usually dubbed "Dock." Probably because as Fuller he was the namesake of a friendly physician. He came as the second child of George and Jane McClain Overturf, born July 13, 1827, and was married to a neighbor girl, born and reared on a farm joining his father's on the north, Miss MINERVA LAKE, July 28, 1848. He died near Elk Creek, Nebraska, when he was 87. They had children born to them named, Jane Edna, John Lake, Mary, Adeline born October 16, 1864, died January 1, 1874; Emma, born November 15, 1856, died December 27, 1873; George, born March 17, 1860, died December 2, 1878; James Milton, born December 5, 1863.

Jane Edna Overturf married Elmus Corbin and resided at Wichita, Kansas. They had two children, John and Flora, who died several years since. Jane Edna died at her brother, John L. Overturf's home near Elk Creek, Nebraska, December 17, 1908.

John Lake Overturf was born in Bennington Township, Licking, Ohio, within a half mile of where his father was born, 2½ miles southwest of Appleton and 3½ miles north-east of Johnstown, September 25, 1850, on his father's farm in sight of his grand-father Jesse Lake's farm to the east. Their cabin stood up from the road to the east on the highest ground on the farm, a good well near-by, and a log stable and shed down by the road. This road cut off about a fourth of the farm at its east end. When they sold the little farm and moved near Hartford, John's father had a good team of horses and the best wagon in the vicinity. He went to Delaware to get that, though it took near thirty miles each way, Overturf tenacity had decided to have the best. "That was a McElroy wagon."

When John was about sixteen years old his father emigrated to Knox county, Illinois, where some relatives and other Ohio people had located, among whom was Dr. Sheldon, who was a lame man and had once an extensive practice at Appleton, Ohio, and who had a daughter, Alzina M. Sheldon, to whom John was married, and to their union was born fourteen children, named, Etta Minerva, born July 11, 1869; Ida Dell, born April 23, 1871; William Fuller, born February 19, 1874; John Horton, born November 7, 1875; Emma Tryphena, born February 19, 1878, died September 3, 1901; Charles Elmus, born May 12, 1880; Harley James, born April 6, 1882; Jesse Ray and Tresse Jay, twins, born April 9, 1884, (These were the second twins known in the Overturf blood.) Tresse Jay died the day he was born; George Edwin, born April 20, 1886; Elbert Franklin, born March 25, 1888; Myrtle Tamson, born







January 19, 1891; Ellen Merle, born March 10, 1893, died August 25, 1894; an infant son who lived only a week was not named, born March 17, 1895.

John L. continued to reside in Illinois until after their first four children, as above named, were born. He succeeded in acquiring four head of horses, a wagon and bedding for the family, with \$160 in money he set off for Nebraska overland, and in 21 days, October 24, 1877, arrived in Johnson county, that state, where he rented a farm and in three years owned and had paid for 160 acres of land and had his own shack to live in. He still owned that place in 1909, where he says his and his wife's happiest days were spent. After the remainder of their children were born and where the seven boys and three girls that were living in 1909 had grown up. Ida Dell was the first to marry. She married L. R. Tiblett, and has children and resides in Elk Creek, Nebraska. Etta Minerva married Charles Smith and resides in Nuckolls county, Nebraska. William Fuller married Edna Gibbs and resides in Cheyenne county, Kansas, and have children, Roy and Wayne Overturf. Charles Elmus married Edith Steininger and resides in Cheyenne county, Kansas, have Harrold Overturf and a baby not named. Elbert Franklin married Ethel Craft; they also reside in Cheyenne county, Kansas, and have no children. Myrtle Tamson married Carl Jacks and resides in Johnston county, Nebraska. No children. JOHN HORTON OVERTURF married Ida Polhemus, have one child, BERNICE OVERTURF, and reside at or near Erickson, Nebraska. (And it is by his courtesy and kindness that so much can be given of the family of Simon Fuller Overturf and we express our gratitude for the same.) Harley James Overturf resides at Bend, Oregon. Jesse Ray Overturf resides at Loomis, Nebraska. George Edwin Overturf was at Ft. Morgan, Colorado, in winter of 1909-10, with his father, John L., on account of the latter's health.

This narrator never saw John L. after he was a very young man, probably about 15, but prior to his death he gave out his individual family history, and by kindness of his son, John Horton Overturf, it has been the data from which facts of his family have been secured as transcribed herein, and in proof that John L. had much of the old stock to his inheritance both the mother and father's ancestry. The narrative he left behind proves his aggressive, fearless spirit. He had timidity to overcome, because truth to him was worth more than fiction and he spoke it plump and clear without a blush or reserve.

John L.'s narrative of himself, as well as the memory of this scrivener, places him as being much more Overturf than Lake, as to conduct and character, openly frank disposition, unstinted physical exertion in labor and toil and migratory risks and success. The Lakes had an inherent caution as to risks and labor. Uncle Jesse Lake, his great-grand-father, had two brothers who reared families in the locality in Solomon and George Overturf's families grew up. These two brothers were named Sanford and Elijah, hence all the children of the Lake's and Overturf's of that locality were familiar associates, which resulted in "Doc" Overturf marrying Jesse Lake's Minerva and his double cousin, Sarah Jane, Solomon's daughter by his first wife, marrying George L. Lake, the eldest son of Elijah Lake, added to this family double tie. Ira Overturf married Catherine English, who was by way of Jessie Lake's wife a cousin to all of his children. It may, to some, seem a digression to say so much about the Lakes in this narrative, but by reason of this double or thrible connection, it is a little more than passing interest to some of the Overturf blood to have a full statement from one who was the youngest of the second generation of the Overturfs in that locality, and a co-observer of three generations of the Lakes, who were of the best looking, personally tidy people of the vicinity in which they resided, the older men were always well dressed, neat and clean, because they did not work much. The younger men were just as proud of good clothes and personal primp as the older ones, but failed to acquire the thrift of their elders though imitating them in the general main in acquiring a livelihood, in all remembered and known well, there was only two or three who could be classed as industrious in hard work and labor. It ran through the whole clan of the men to rely on traffic, raising of colts, calves and lambs to take little risk and sell at high prices, good talkers for salesmanship, best of exhibitors to point out unusual quality of the stock offered for sale or trade. The three families of Lakes mentioned, shared in a degree like the Overturf's in having two distinctive classes in manners and physical appearance; the tall light-eyed and tendency to blond and the darker complec-







tioned, keen black eyed, shorter vivacious kind. Elijah Lake's family showed a trend to the former of these classes, while Jesse's family partook strongly of the latter, and Sanford's family, the more handsome of the three had a somewhat characteristic of both. John L. Overturf, as a boy of fifteen, was a dark eyed and complected handsome boy, neat and lovable, of rather a shy and cautious demeanor, with an active energetic disposition. And as it can be quoted from his own narrative that he "made 1000 rails for \$10 and was paid in wheat at \$1.10 per bushel; husked twelve acres of corn for three-quarters of the fodder; tended sixteen acres of corn in one season with a single horse; put a cellar under the house; built a wagon shed, log smoke house; fenced in the garden with a picket fence; split 5000 rails and fenced eighty acres of land" while he lived his first eight years of married life in Illinois, he demonstrated his natural quality in mental fiber, energetic purposes for success. His unflagging and unflaccid energy in labor, constitute him more Overturf than Lake. No observer of the actual could dare to record of any Lake that one had such fidelity to physical industry as John displayed. His was a trifle intense for a reason above what some of his name exhibited during entire life. In another behest he was Overturf. Father of fourteen. Mary Overturf had from seven to ten children, no Lakes, only those coupled in affinity with Overturf's had more than seven. Uncle Sol, who "Dock" mentions as a preacher, was the father of fifteen of which fourteen lived to mature life, and but one of the fourteen died under fifty years of age. (In this score John was in the second class.) John's free will religion convictions was Lake in tenor, though aside from his grand-father, Jessie, and his family no very stable religious affiliation was demonstrated by them as a people. John's political affiliations were a natural inheritance of both branches of ancestry and dominated by his own common sense of what he regarded as good or bad qualities in candidates. His refusal to vote for Greeley as a Democrat, in 1872, with his refusal to vote for Cleveland at his second nomination, as well as turning down of Alton B. Parker, all on the grounds of counter principles of his conviction. He was a pioneer in the mighty throng, who so recently, November 4, 1924, proved integrity with them is above politics. Many states by thousands of ballots qualified Republican electors and at the same election elected a Democratic governor. They proved John's honesty of purpose has moved on in evolution to what his should have been. Always act. Act where conscience says is nearest best. But never buck and fail to have you share of a trust done right.

Mary, the third child of Simon Fuller and Manerva Overturf, married Harris Cobin. They had one child Sybil, whose mother died while she was an infant. She was reared by the parents of her mother. Her father died when she was five yaers old.

SYBIL CORBIN married T. S. Baird, of Elk Creek, Nebraska, to them were born four children, Harry, Jesse, Dale and Mary.

ADELIN OVERTURF, fourth child of Simon Fuller and Manerva Overturf, was born October 16, 1854, died January 1, 1874.

EMMA OVERTURF, fifth child of Simon and Manerva Overturf, was born November 15, 1856, died December 27, 1873.

GEORGE OVERTURF, sixth child of Simon Fuller and Manerva Overturf, was born March 17, 1860, died December 2, 1878.

JAMES MILTON OVERTURF, seventh child of Simon and Manerva Overturf, was born December 5, 1863. Married Minna Young, of Elk Creek, Nebraska, to whom two children were born, Ray and Russel. James is the only issue of Simon Fuller now living. He resides at Hill City, Kansas.

Simon Fuller Overturf and his wife, Manerva, joined church when she was about fifteen years old, and that he did not become a member of any church until after he moved to Illinois in 1866. He then joined the Christian Church. He was then 67 years old, evidence of an unusual personage, rare persons so late in life join church for the first time, but he was mentally as well as physically a strong, powerful man. Tall and lythe and of darker complexion than Hiram and George, showed much of the McClain quality in that particular. He was a good talker and loved debate and much inclined to personal narratives and his experiences. Narrator recalls that he spent a season gathering corn below Columbus, on the Scioto bottoms, narratives of the Sullivans, the land owners, quality and productivity of the soil, grade value of the corn for mar-







ket, and production by the acre what different persons said, he readily and aptly called up to fit the conversations on other subjects. All of which proved his ready memory and high power of imaginery. He had the gift that by culture and experience would have placed him in eminence as a public speaker and debater. He admired the beautiful and excellent, had native skill and pride of execution, hence a good farmer, but for high success lacked venture risk; he preferred to prove the value of what he undertook as perfect success, by his close careful attention. He was well steeped in the Overturf blood of quick to resent but sure to forgive. Fully brewed in tune and song, such cannot hold a grudge. He moved from Ohio about 1866 or '67 to Illinois, in hope to better provide for his children, by reason of relatives and friends residing in Knox county that state, he became a resident there, but it was not the West of his dream, and he went to Nebraska, near Elk Creek, where both he and his wife died at a ripe old age. He survived her death a few years.

MINERVA OVERTURF, the eldest daughter, and third child of George and Jane McClain Overturf, was born about 1829, and married when about twenty-five to Jesse VanFossen who had returned home from California as a gold seeker. He was a savingly careful, successful business farmer, close in a deal, exact of his word and exacting of a promise made to him. A man who worked with him for years said, "Jess had bred a race of horses which need no shoes. He never had one shod, and those he is now using can take a good load of hay for him to Newark, eighteen miles away, over frozen or slippery road without a flinch or fall."

Minerva was of the stocky Debolt type, nervously active and energetic, quick to speak, sure to see the laughable side of any matter, high keyed in her likes and dislikes, but remarkably apt in judgment in the selection of the best policy or prospect for greatest success, as was verified by her selection of her husband, her vivacity attracted more than one gallant of favorable prospects. But she wisely chose the man of care, amity and thrift, who appreciated every energy she had for business success, and their co-operation was well rewarded and placed them far beyond the average well-to-do. They always lived well on the very fat of their industry, still their acres multiplied into hundreds and surplus cash to loan. Jesse died several years before Minerva, who in her last years left the farm and resided in Hartford, Croton Postoffice, a little over two miles northwest of their home farms, where Minerva died in 1913. They were religiously inclined to the Christian church to which the VanFossen's as a class adhered. Their marriage was an additional semi-connection of the Lake and Overturfs, as Fanny and Sarah Lake, Jesse's daughters, married respectively George and Daniel VanFossen, brothers of Jesse VanFossen. It might seem that by these four marriages, two of Overturfs with the Lakes and Van Fossens, and two of VanFossens with Lakes, should weld that family of Overturfs most strongly to the Lakes but it was not so, aside from the individuals, married as general family comity and friendly associations, the other family of Overturfs, Solomon's, doubled and thribbled social commingly with the Jesse Lake family.

The solutions are church relations, they and Jesse Lake, and the VanFossens generally, espoused and attended what in the early days was called the New Light church, at Appleton, later designated Christian.

Minerva and Jesse had three children born to them, namely, Norman, who died in infancy; Jane, who married a Shaffer; George, who is married and resides on a farm just outside of Hartford; Jane also resides thereat, Croton Postoffice, Licking county, Ohio.

JAMES OVERTURF, third son, fourth child of George and Jane McClain Overturf, was likely born about 1833, was married to Mary Ford, whose father resided in the east part of the same school district as the Overturfs. They moved west soon after James and Mary were married, as early as 1858. James was a farmer and rented land of John Stockbarger, 2½ miles east of Hartford, Licking county, Ohio, where he resided in 1860, and from where he emigrated to near Sigourney, Iowa, that year. They had issue of two children, George, deceased sometimes since, and Katherine, who for a time resided in Kansas, but last known of her she was at Sigourney, Iowa.

James was a strong, tall man, darker complected than either of brothers, and in temper, disposition, manners, very unlike them. If he was Overturf, ne was of the minority, in the quiet class. Well, in short, he was his mother's







and more like her than any of the family, while he did not talk as much as the others, he thought and acted more for himself than the others unless it was Minerva. Whether he did or did not, he should have become a rich man if he lived to be 50, as he was careful, industrious, fine in judgment to find defects and discover advantages of opportunities and bargains—loved and owned the best in stock, either animal or implement. If he failed it was malady of some sort, not neglect, for he was a king in promptness and exacting with himself and expected a fair deal from others, usually getting it.

MARY ANN OVERTURF, second daughter, fifth child of George and Jane McClain Overturf, likely born about 1835, was married to Elam Hoover, a farmer who resided about two miles west of her father's, and of the Old School Baptist stock. They were married winter of 1862. During the summer of 1862, Elam built them a house and other good improvements on his land, at the east side; just a mile from his father's home and about the same distance west of her old home. They were well located for family communion and aid, and much was given of them, as Mary's brother George, soon after married Elam's sister, Delia. Here their eldest children, Perry and Newton, and probably a daughter, were born, and they seemed happy and contented, but that silent unseen power, called fate by many, ruled them a change and they sold out, and unexpectedly bought the remnant of the Solomon Overturf farm, immediately west of the birth place of Mary, and resided there from 1867 until after her death, about 1886. Mary died on the adjoining farm, about fifty rods from where she was born, and where she had spent her entire life. Mary died in the same old house her uncle Solomon built, in which most of his fifteen children were born.

Mary Ann was tall and spare, dark hair and eyes, and much fairer complexioned than either of her sister, in features she was of her mother but in jovility, open, general friendliness, she was an Overturf in full degree. She was an industrious, laughing girl and woman, kind hearted in words and manners toward her friends, associates and family, high keyed for a good time and happiness. She and Elam were well mated. He always called her Moy, and addressed her with a smile. Her death to him was a stroke from which he never recovered, though he re-married, his smiles were fewer and all had a saddening tinge, his converse came hesitating as if strained through grief. He seemed to live by inherent tenacity only. Last knowledge of their children was Perry and Newton lived in Johnstown, Ohio, and a daughter who married a Mr. Longwell and resided on her grand-father Overturf's old farm.

ELIZABETH OVERTURF, all called her "BET," was the youngest daughter of George and Jane McClain Overturf, who lived to mature age, (no exact knowledge if Malinda was older or younger than "Bet.") "Bet" was born not many years from 1840, and married to Benjamin Castel, an ex-soldier of the War of 1861, about 1866 or '7. They had issue of one daughter and called her Jane. She married a Mr. Dispennet, of the vicinity and last known of her is they resided in Marion, Ohio. "Bet" became seriously afflicted of a rheumatic nature soon after her marriage, and died about 1878. "Bet" was a robust, strong, wonderfully willing worker. She could follow flax in its mature stock in the field to garment or other household need. Pull it in the field, break, scrutch, hackle, spin and weave it into cloth. The last thaws of winter found the sugar camp her domain, helped make the spiles, tap the trees, gather the sap, and assumed supreme command to run the furnace, two big logs with kettles swung between, and fired with old rails, dry chunks and wood cut three or four feet long. When the sugaring off came, "Bet" was the controlling boss, and mistake was rare and the wax was fine. She knew the game of sugar making from sap at tree, through vaporated syrup, to the crispy white brown grain without a lump. She had the temper, quick decision, lively, gay disposition, which crowned her as popular leader and early gave her a full and free sway in their home life. As is usual so with her. Her pain and suffering endured in latter years of her life were but full priced, high pay to the last farthing, for the delight and happiness she had enjoyed as strenuous leader of her birth home of much and plenty. But in her last suffering she proved her strength by her patience. "Bet" had a good, clear, strong, well tuned voice that could be heard and distinguished in the songs sang at the old singing school, at the school house by the road, and







about a mile north of where she died, at an age not above fifty, having always resided in the same locality.

GEORGE OVERTURF (junior), was the fourth son and eighth child of George and Jane McClain Overturf. His older brother and a few others dubbed him, "Coddy" (reason unknown.) He was born about 1843 or '44, and was married to Miss Delia Hoover, a sister of Mary Ann's husband. They were double sisters-in-law, about 1866. They had issue a daughter, Amie, who was the almost perfect likeness of her mother, and married a neighbor boy who was almost continuously working with her father. They lived together several years and separated. He was a big, laughing fellow as a boy, and did not indicate quality that is necessary to become a staunch head of a family. (No knowledge of faults.)

FRANK OVERTURF, their son, was likely born about 1869, or a little later and was a bright, thoughtful boy, well balanced in mind. Last direct knowledge of him, he resided at Centerburg, Ohio, not far from his birth-place, the old home of his grand-father where two generations first saw light, eight children to the father and two to the son.

Having the same name as his father, it was but natural that he was designated as "Little George," that as well as "Coddy" clung to him until he was man grown. It may be easily supposed that the "Coddy" was coined by the older children. He being youngest of the family, likely received more attention and favor than others, and some may have decided he was coddled by the parents too much, and they injected the word "Coddy," as meaning one who is treated tenderly, or overindulged. True or false, fact or fancy as to origin of the name, as true as the reality of life it is seethed into the mind of this narrator, that George's failure to acquire what his early prospects appeared to assure, was largely due to want of self reliance, an individually independent will; both come to they who have good metal, who are early in life thrown on their sole resources, neither rarely come to he who has his daily toil planned and set to him as stent-vigor of brain will plan, success, only come by repeated personal effort in a stern desire, best, no boss save young self. George did not get that. He was the same boy when his father died as he was at sixteen. He had not been pushed to lay the plans, take the lead, do the business.

He took over the old farm and its outfit. It was new and strange to him to be the head and he gradually dwindled until after his mother passed on, a few years later, gave up the old place, had little left as outfit to move to a rented farm.

In features George was a typical, heavy set, strong built, slight, sandy complectioned, good looking Overturf as any of the set not so tall, but resembled his brother Hiram, very much, and lacked the height and dark tinge of his other brothers had the same symptom of a haughty disdain, apparent in manner of their mother and inherited by each of them in greater or less extent, which an acquaintance and familiarity dissolved into a mere brag dignity, and neither scorn nor contempt were within their intent or design.

George was a good-natured, accommodating, genially sociable, happy hearted, morally and spiritually minded citizen. In many ways too liberal to be a financial success. He was a great eater and less than the best in abundance would not do. He delighted in company and a good time. He gradually enlarged on these and rarely worked alone and paid full wages for poor scant service. Searched for the easy way rather than the gain in thrift. That was a great weakness of many Overturfs. Possibly prevailed with as many as willingness to fill a public place. When George was at about middle life he joined the Christian church at Appleton, Ohio, and true to his blood, in willingness to assume public responsibility he became the singing leader of classes and in church, and be assured none in the community was more qualified in energy, zeal and tune, as a boy, tune seemed to bubble in his soul that he sang or whistled as he drove a team, helped till the fields or did his usual chores and could the earth of that old farm give evidence, it would be, "none sang more than he."

When the human frailties are all remembered and the mishaps all recited and the true and good are told, nothing will appear to prove George's little world was morally poorer by his life in it.



























